

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Central Valley Project, California

LONG-TERM RENEWAL CONTRACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND
CHOWCHILLA WATER DISTRICT
PROVIDING FOR PROJECT WATER SERVICE
FROM BUCHANAN UNIT

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3 BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
4 Central Valley Project, California

5 LONG-TERM RENEWAL CONTRACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
6 AND
7 CHOWCHILLA WATER DISTRICT
8 PROVIDING FOR PROJECT WATER SERVICE
9 FROM BUCHANAN UNIT

10 THIS CONTRACT, made this 15th day of February, 2001, in pursuance generally
11 of the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388), and acts amendatory or supplementary thereto, including, but
12 not limited to, the Acts of August 26, 1937 (50 Stat. 844), as amended and supplemented, August 4, 1939
13 (53 Stat. 1187), as amended and supplemented, July 2, 1956 (70 Stat. 483), June 21, 1963 (77 Stat. 68),
14 October 12, 1982 (96 Stat. 1262), October 27, 1986 (100 Stat. 3050), as amended, and Title XXXIV of
15 the Act of October 30, 1992 (106 Stat. 4706), all collectively hereinafter referred to as Federal
16 Reclamation law, between THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, hereinafter referred to as the United
17 States, and CHOWCHILLA WATER DISTRICT, hereinafter referred to as the Contractor, a public
18 agency of the State of California, duly organized, existing, and acting pursuant to the laws thereof, with its
19 principal place of business in California;

20 WITNESSETH, That:

21 EXPLANATORY RECITALS

22 [1st] WHEREAS, the United States has constructed and is operating the Central Valley Project,
23 California, for diversion, storage, carriage, distribution and beneficial use, for flood control, irrigation,

municipal, domestic, industrial, fish and wildlife mitigation, protection and restoration, generation and distribution of electric energy, salinity control, navigation and other beneficial uses, of waters of the Sacramento River, the American River, the Trinity River, and the San Joaquin River and their tributaries; and

[2nd] WHEREAS, pursuant to Title II of the Flood Control Act of October 23, 1962 (76 Stat. 1180), and supporting documents, the United States constructed Buchanan Dam on the Chowchilla River (thereby creating Eastman Lake), hereinafter collectively referred to as the Buchanan Unit, which is operated by the Corps of Engineers for flood control, recreation and other incidental uses; and

[3rd] WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 8 of the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388), the United States has acquired water rights and other rights to the flows of the Chowchilla River, including without limitation the permits issued as the result of Decision 1365 by the California State Water Resource Control Board and the contracts described in subdivision (n) of Article 3 of this Contract, pursuant to which the Contracting Officer develops, diverts, stores and delivers Project Water stored or flowing through Eastman Lake in accordance with State and Federal law for the benefit of Project Contractors in the Buchanan Unit; and

[4th] WHEREAS, the Contractor and the United States entered into Contract No. 14-06-200-3844A, as amended, provides the Contractor the right to the entire yield from the Buchanan Unit available for conservation purposes from May 28, 1968, to February 28, 1994; and

[5th] WHEREAS, the Contractor and the United States have pursuant to subsection 3404(c)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), subsequently entered into interim renewal contract(s) identified as Contract No(s). 14-06-200-3844A-IR2, IR3, IR4, IR5, and

IR6, the current of which is hereinafter referred to as the Existing Contract, which provided for the continued water service to the Contractor from December 1, 2000, through February 28, 2001; and

[6th] WHEREAS, Section 3404(c) of the CVPIA provides for long-term renewal of interim and existing long-term Project Water service contracts following completion of appropriate environmental documentation, including a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act analyzing the direct and indirect impacts and benefits of implementing the CVPIA and the potential renewal of all existing contracts for Project Water; and

[7th] WHEREAS, the United States has completed the PEIS and all other appropriate environmental review necessary to provide for long-term renewal of the Existing Contract; and

[8th] WHEREAS, the Contractor has requested the long-term renewal of the Existing Contract, pursuant to the terms of the Existing Contract, Federal Reclamation law, and the laws of the State of California, for water service from the Central Valley Project; and

[9th] WHEREAS, the United States has determined that the Contractor has fulfilled all of its obligations under the Existing Contract; and

[10th] WHEREAS, the Contractor has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Contracting Officer that the Contractor has utilized the Project Water supplies available to it for reasonable and beneficial use and/or has demonstrated projected future demand for water use such that the Contractor has the capability and expects to utilize fully for reasonable and beneficial use the quantity of Project Water to be made available to it pursuant to this Contract; and

[11th] WHEREAS, water obtained from the Central Valley Project has been relied upon by urban and agricultural areas within California for more than fifty (50) years, and is considered by the Contractor as an essential portion of its water supply; and

[12th] WHEREAS, the economies of regions within the Central Valley Project, including the Contractor's, depend upon the continued availability of water, including water service from the Central Valley Project; and

[13th] WHEREAS, the Secretary intends through coordination, cooperation, and partnerships to pursue measures to improve water supply, water quality, and reliability of the Project for all Project purposes; and

[14th] WHEREAS, the mutual goals of the United States and the Contractor include: to provide for reliable Project Water supplies; to control costs of those supplies; to achieve repayment of the Central Valley Project as required by law; to guard reasonably against Project Water shortages; to achieve a reasonable balance among competing demands for use of Project Water; and to comply with all applicable environmental statutes, all consistent with the legal obligations of the United States relative to the Central Valley Project; and

[15th] WHEREAS, the parties intend by this Contract to develop a more cooperative relationship in order to achieve their mutual goals; and

[16th] WHEREAS, the United States and the Contractor are willing to enter into this long-term renewal contract pursuant to Federal Reclamation law on the terms and conditions set forth below;

Contract No. 14-06-200-3844A- LTR1

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual and dependent covenants herein contained, it is hereby mutually agreed by the parties hereto as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1. When used herein unless otherwise distinctly expressed, or manifestly incompatible with the intent of the parties as expressed in this Contract, the term:

(a) "Calendar Year" shall mean the period January 1 through December 31, both dates inclusive;

(b) "Charges" shall mean the payments required by Federal Reclamation law in addition to the Rates and Tiered Pricing Components specified in this Contract as determined annually by the Contracting Officer pursuant to this Contract;

(c) Omitted;

(d) "Contracting Officer" shall mean the Secretary of the Interior's duly authorized representative acting pursuant to this Contract or applicable Reclamation law or regulation;

(e) "Contract Total" shall mean the average annual amount of water to which the Contractor is entitled under subdivision (a) of Article 3 of this Contract;

(f) "Contractor's Service Area" shall mean the area to which the Contractor is permitted to provide Project Water under this Contract as described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto, which may be modified from time to time in accordance with Article 35 of this Contract without amendment of this Contract;

(g) "CVPIA" shall mean the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Title XXXIV of

the Act of October 30, 1992 (106 Stat. 4706);

(g2) "District Engineer" shall mean the District Engineer, United States Army Corps of Engineers, or his authorized representative;

(h) "Eligible Lands" shall mean all lands to which Irrigation Water may be delivered in accordance with Section 204 of the Reclamation Reform Act of October 12, 1982 (96 Stat. 1263), as amended, hereinafter referred to as RRA;

(i) "Excess Lands" shall mean all lands in excess of the limitations contained in Section 204 of the RRA, other than those lands exempt from acreage limitation under Federal Reclamation law;

(j) "Full Cost Rate" shall mean that water rate described in Sections 205(a)(3) or 202(3) of the RRA, whichever is applicable;

(k) "Ineligible Lands" shall mean all lands to which Irrigation Water may not be delivered in accordance with Section 204 of the RRA;

(l) "Irrigation Full Cost Water Rate" shall have the same meaning as "full cost" as that term is used in paragraph (3) of Section 202 of the RRA;

(m) "Irrigation Water" shall mean water made available from the Project that is used primarily in the production of agricultural crops or livestock, including domestic use incidental thereto, and watering of livestock. Irrigation Water shall not include water used for purposes such as the watering of landscaping or pasture for animals (e.g., horses) which are kept for personal enjoyment or water delivered to landholdings operated in units of less than five (5) acres unless the Contractor establishes to the

satisfaction of the Contracting Officer that the use of water delivered to any such landholding is a use described in this subdivision of this Article;

(n) "Landholder" shall mean a party that directly or indirectly owns or leases nonexempt land, as provided in 43 CFR 426.2;

(o) Omitted;

(p) "Municipal and Industrial (M&I) Full Cost Water Rate" shall mean the annual rate, which, as determined by the Contracting Officer, shall amortize the expenditures for construction allocable to Project M&I facilities in service, including, O&M deficits funded, less payments, over such periods as may be required under Federal Reclamation law with interest accruing from the dates such costs were first incurred plus the applicable rate for the O&M of such Project facilities. Interest rates used in the calculation of the M&I Full Cost Rate shall comply with the Interest Rate methodology contained in Section 202 (3) (B) and (C) of the RRA;

(q) "Operation and Maintenance" or "O&M" shall mean normal and reasonable care, control, operation, repair, replacement (other than Capital replacement), and maintenance of Project facilities;

(r) Omitted;

(r2) "Other Water" shall mean water from the Project other than Irrigation Water as described in subdivision (l) of this Article, which is used for a purpose that is considered to be an irrigation use pursuant to State law such as the watering of landscaping or pasture for animals (e.g., horses) which are kept for the personal enjoyment. For purposes of this Contract, Other Water shall be paid for at Rates and

- 143 Charges identical to those established for municipal and industrial water pursuant to the then current
- 144 Municipal and Industrial (M&I) Ratesetting Policy;

(r3) "Prior-Rights Water" shall mean that portion of the inflow to Eastman Lake which flows through or is released from Buchanan Dam in recognition of prior downstream Chowchilla River water rights of the Contractor and others, subject to any necessary new water rights permit or permit revisions and in accordance with any applicable agreements relating to the operation of the Buchanan Unit and approved by the Contracting Officer and the State Water Resources Control Board, as necessary;

(s) "Project" shall mean the Central Valley Project owned by the United States and managed by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation;

(t) "Project Contractors" shall mean all parties who have water service contracts for Project Water from the Project with the United States pursuant to Federal Reclamation law;

(u) "Project Water" shall mean all water that is developed, diverted, stored, or delivered by the Secretary in accordance with the statutes authorizing the Project and in accordance with the terms and conditions of water rights acquired pursuant to California law;

(v) "Rates" shall mean the payments determined annually by the Contracting Officer in accordance with the then current applicable water ratesetting policies for the Project, as described in subdivision (a) of Article 7 of this Contract;

(w) Omitted;

(x) "Secretary" shall mean the Secretary of the Interior, a duly appointed successor, or an authorized representative acting pursuant to any authority of the Secretary and through any agency of the Department of the Interior;

(y) "Tiered Pricing Component" shall be the incremental amount to be paid for each acre-foot of Water Delivered as described in subdivision (j) of Article 7 of this Contract;

(z) "Water Delivered" or "Delivered Water" shall mean Project Water diverted for use by the Contractor at Buchanan Dam, other than Prior Rights Water, and for pricing purposes shall consist of 24,000 acre-feet average annual supply;

(aa) Omitted;

(bb) Omitted; and

(cc) "Year" shall mean the period from and including March 1 of each Calendar Year through the last day of February of the following Calendar Year.

TERM OF CONTRACT

2. (a) This Contract shall be effective March 1, 2001, through February 28, 2026. In the event the Contractor wishes to renew the Contract beyond February 28, 2026, the Contractor shall submit a request for renewal in writing to the Contracting Officer no later than two (2) years prior to the date this Contract expires. The renewal of this Contract insofar as it pertains to the furnishing of Irrigation Water to the Contractor shall be governed by subdivision (b) of this Article.

(b) (1) Under terms and conditions of a renewal contract that are mutually agreeable to the parties hereto, and upon a determination by the Contracting Officer that at the time of contract renewal the conditions set forth in subdivision (b)(2) of this Article are met, and subject to Federal and State law, this Contract shall be renewed for a period of twenty-five (25) years.

(2) The conditions which must be met for this Contract to be renewed are: (i) the Contractor has prepared a water conservation plan that has been determined by the Contracting Officer in accordance with Article 26 of this Contract to meet the conservation and efficiency criteria for evaluating such plans established under Federal law; (ii) the Contractor is implementing an effective water conservation and efficiency program based on the Contractor's water conservation plan as required by Article 26 of this Contract; (iii) the Contractor is operating and maintaining all water measuring devices and implementing all water measurement methods as approved by the Contracting Officer pursuant to Article 6 of this Contract; (iv) the Contractor has reasonably and beneficially used the Project Water supplies made available to it and, based on projected demands, is reasonably anticipated and expects fully to utilize for reasonable and beneficial use the quantity of Project Water to be made available to it pursuant to such renewal; (v) the Contractor is complying with all terms and conditions of this Contract and all legal obligations of the Contractor, if any, set forth in an enforceable court order, final judgment or settlement relating to the San Joaquin River; and (vi) the Contractor has the physical and legal ability to deliver Project Water.

(3) The terms and conditions of the renewal contract described in subdivision (b)(1) of this Article and any subsequent renewal contracts shall be developed consistent with the parties' respective legal rights and obligations, and in consideration of all relevant facts and circumstances, as those circumstances exist at the time of renewal, including, without limitation, the Contractor's need for continued delivery of Project Water; environmental conditions affected by implementation of the Contract to be renewed, and specifically changes in those conditions that occurred during the life of the Contract to be renewed; the Secretary's progress toward achieving the

purposes of the CVPIA as set out in Section 3402 and in implementing the specific provisions of the CVPIA; and current and anticipated economic circumstances of the region served by the Contractor.

(c) Omitted.

(d) The Contracting Officer anticipates that by December 31, 2024, all authorized Project construction expected to occur will have occurred, and on that basis the Contracting Officer agrees by that date to allocate all costs that are properly assignable to the Contractor, and agrees further that, at any time after such allocation is made, and subject to satisfaction of the conditions set out in this subdivision of this Article, this Contract shall, at the request of the Contractor, be converted to a contract under subsection (c)(1) and (d) of Section 9, of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939, subject to applicable Federal law and under stated terms and conditions mutually agreeable to the Contractor and the Contracting Officer. A condition for such conversion to occur shall be a determination by the Contracting Officer that, account being taken of the amount credited to return by the Contractor as provided for under Reclamation law, the remaining amount of construction costs assignable for ultimate return by the Contractor can probably be repaid to the United States within the term of a contract under said subsection 9(c)(1) and (d). If the remaining amount of costs that are properly assignable to the Contractor cannot be determined by December 31, 2024, the Contracting Officer shall notify the Contractor, and provide the reason(s) why such a determination could not be made. Further, the Contracting Officer shall make such a determination as soon thereafter as possible so as to permit, upon request of the Contractor and satisfaction of the conditions set out above, conversion to a contract under said subsection 9(c)(1) and (d). In the event such determination of costs has not been made at a time which allows conversion of this Contract during the term

of this Contract or the Contractor has not requested conversion of this Contract within such term, the parties shall incorporate in any subsequent renewal contract as described in Article 2(b) a provision that carries forth in substantially identical terms the provisions of this Article 2(d). In the event the Contracting Officer is able to make a determination of the remaining amount of costs that are properly assignable to the Contractor before December 31, 2024, the Contracting Officer shall do so at the earliest time he/she has such ability.

WATER TO BE MADE AVAILABLE AND DELIVERED TO THE CONTRACTOR

3. (a) During each Year, consistent with all applicable State water rights, permits, and licenses; Federal law; and subject to the provisions set forth in Articles 11 and 12 of this Contract, the Contracting Officer shall make available for delivery to the Contractor the entire quantity of Project Water from Buchanan Unit for irrigation purposes. The quantity of Water Delivered to the Contractor in accordance with this subdivision shall be paid for pursuant to the provisions of Articles 4 and 7 of this Contract.

(b) Omitted.

(c) The Contractor shall utilize the Project Water in accordance with all applicable legal requirements.

(d) The Contractor shall make reasonable and beneficial use of all Project Water or other water furnished pursuant to this Contract. Groundwater recharge programs, groundwater banking programs, surface water storage programs, and other similar programs utilizing Project Water or other water furnished pursuant to this Contract conducted within the Contractor's Service Area which are consistent with applicable State law and result in use consistent with Reclamation law will be allowed; Provided, That

any direct recharge program(s) is (are) described in the Contractor's Water Conservation Plan submitted pursuant to Article 26 of this Contract; Provided, further, That such Water Conservation Plan demonstrates sufficient lawful uses exist in the Contractor's Service Area so that using a long-term average, the quantity of Delivered Water is demonstrated to be reasonable for such uses and in compliance with Reclamation law. Groundwater recharge programs, groundwater banking programs, surface water storage programs, and other similar programs utilizing Project Water or other water furnished pursuant to this Contract conducted outside the Contractor's Service Area may be permitted upon written approval of the Contracting Officer, which approval will be based upon environmental documentation, Project Water rights, and Project operational concerns. The Contracting Officer will address such concerns in regulations, policies, or guidelines.

(e) The Contractor shall comply with requirements applicable to the Contractor in biological opinion(s) prepared as a result of a consultation regarding the execution of this Contract undertaken pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, that are within the Contractor's legal authority to implement. The Contractor shall comply with the limitations or requirements imposed by environmental documentation applicable to the Contractor and within its legal authority to implement regarding specific activities. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the Contractor from challenging or seeking judicial relief in a court of competent jurisdiction with respect to any biological opinion or other environmental documentation referred to in this Article.

(f) Omitted.

(g) Omitted.

(h) The Contractor's right pursuant to Federal Reclamation law and applicable State law to the reasonable and beneficial use of Water Delivered pursuant to this Contract during the term thereof and any subsequent renewal contracts, as described in Article 2 of this Contract, during the terms thereof shall not be disturbed so long as the Contractor shall fulfill all of its obligations under this Contract and any renewals thereof. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall affect the Contracting Officer's ability to impose shortages under Article 11 or subdivision (b) of Article 12 of this Contract or applicable provisions of any subsequent renewal contracts.

(i) Project Water furnished to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract may be delivered for purposes other than those described in subdivisions (m) and (r2) of Article 1 of this Contract upon written approval by the Contracting Officer in accordance with the terms and conditions of such approval.

(j) The Contracting Officer shall make reasonable efforts to protect the water rights necessary for the Project and to provide the water available under this Contract. The Contracting Officer shall not object to participation by the Contractor, in the capacity and to the extent permitted by law, in administrative proceedings related to the Project Water rights; Provided, however, That the Contracting Officer retains the right to object to the substance of the Contractor's position in such a proceeding.

TIME FOR DELIVERY OF WATER

4. Omitted.

RESERVOIR OPERATION--USE AND SALE OF WATER

4.1. (a) At the request of the Contractor, pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Contract, the United States, acting through the District Engineer, shall store, regulate, and/or release all flows

of Chowchilla River water at the Buchanan Unit subject to the regulation of the Buchanan Unit for flood control, as conclusively determined by the District Engineer, and further subject to Prior-Rights Water releases and the maintenance of a minimum pool of ten thousand (10,000) acre-feet of water in Eastman Lake for recreational and incidental uses.

(b) Project Water delivered to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract shall be used as Irrigation Water or Other Water only and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of for use outside the Contractor's Service Area without the written approval of the Contracting Officer.

POINT OF DIVERSION AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISTRIBUTION OF WATER

5. (a) Project Water scheduled pursuant to subdivision (b) of Article 4 of this Contract shall be delivered to the Contractor at Buchanan Dam.

(b) Omitted.

(c) The Contractor shall deliver Irrigation Water in accordance with any applicable land classification provisions of Federal Reclamation law and the associated regulations. The Contractor shall not deliver Project Water to land outside the Contractor's Service Area unless approved in advance by the Contracting Officer.

(d) All Water Delivered to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract shall be measured and recorded with equipment furnished, installed, operated, and maintained by the United States at the point or points of delivery established pursuant to subdivision (a) of this Article. Upon the request of either party to this Contract, the Contracting Officer shall investigate, or cause to be investigated the accuracy of such measurements and shall take any necessary steps to adjust any errors appearing therein. For any period of

time when accurate measurements have not been made, the Contracting Officer shall consult with the Contractor prior to making a final determination of the quantity delivered for that period of time.

(e) The Contracting Officer shall be responsible for the control, carriage, handling, use, disposal, or distribution of Project Water Delivered to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract beyond the delivery points specified in subdivision (a) of this Article. The Contractor shall indemnify the United States, its officers, employees, agents, and assigns on account of damage or claim of damage of any nature whatsoever for which there is legal responsibility, including property damage, personal injury, or death arising out of or connected with the control, carriage, handling, use, disposal, or distribution of such Project Water beyond such delivery points, except for any damage or claim arising out of: (i) acts or omissions of the Contracting Officer or any of its officers, employees, agents, or assigns, including any responsible Operating Non-Federal Entity, with the intent of creating the situation resulting in any damage or claim; (ii) willful misconduct of the Contracting Officer or any of its officers, employees, agents, or assigns, including any responsible Operating Non-Federal Entity; (iii) negligence of the Contracting Officer or any of its officers, employees, agents, or assigns including any responsible Operating Non-Federal Entity; or (iv) damage or claims resulting from a malfunction of facilities owned and/or operated by the United States or responsible Operating Non-Federal Entity; Provided, That the Contractor is not the Operating Non-Federal Entity that owned or operated the malfunctioning facility(ies) from which the damage claim arose.

(f) The Contractor shall maintain a surface water measurement program satisfactory to the Contracting Officer to provide for the operation of the Buchanan Unit facilities without interference to established rights including correlative rights easterly of the Eastside-

Chowchilla Canal Bypass and keep records of data obtained from such program satisfactory to the Contracting Officer.

MEASUREMENT OF WATER WITHIN THE SERVICE AREA

6. (a) The Contractor has established a measurement program satisfactory to the Contracting Officer, all surface water delivered for irrigation purposes within the Contractor's Service Area is measured at each agricultural turnout. The water measuring devices or water measuring methods of comparable effectiveness must be acceptable to the Contracting Officer.

The Contractor shall be responsible for installing, operating, and maintaining and repairing all such measuring devices and implementing all such water measuring methods at no cost to the United States. The Contractor shall use the information obtained from such water measuring devices or water measuring methods to ensure its proper management of the water, to bill water users for water delivered by the Contractor. Nothing herein contained, however, shall preclude the Contractor from establishing and collecting any charges, assessments, or other revenues authorized by California law. The Contractor shall include a summary of all its annual surface water deliveries in the annual report described in subdivision (c) of Article 26 of this Contract.

(b) To the extent the information has not otherwise been provided, upon execution of this Contract, the Contractor shall provide to the Contracting Officer a written report describing the measurement devices or water measuring methods being used or to be used to implement subdivision (a) of this Article and identifying the agricultural turnouts or alternative measurement programs approved by the Contracting Officer, at which such measurement devices or water measuring methods are being used, and, if

applicable, identifying the locations at which such devices and/or methods are not yet being used including a time schedule for implementation at such locations. The Contracting Officer shall advise the Contractor in writing within sixty (60) days as to the adequacy of, and necessary modifications, if any, of the measuring devices or water measuring methods identified in the Contractor's report and if the Contracting Officer does not respond in such time, they shall be deemed adequate. If the Contracting Officer notifies the Contractor that the measuring devices or methods are inadequate, the parties shall within sixty (60) days following the Contracting Officer's response, negotiate in good faith the earliest practicable date by which the Contractor shall modify said measuring devices and/or measuring methods as required by the Contracting Officer to ensure compliance with subdivision (a) of this Article.

(c) All new surface water delivery systems installed within the Contractor's Service Area after the effective date of this Contract shall also comply with the measurement provisions described in subdivision (a) of this Article.

(d) The Contractor shall inform the Contracting Officer and the State of California in writing by April 30 of each Year of the annual volume of Irrigation Water and Other Water delivered within the Contractor's Service Area during the previous Year.

(e) Omitted.

RATES AND METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR WATER

7. (a) The Contractor shall pay the United States as provided in this Article for 24,000 acre-feet of Project Water at Rates, Charges, and the Tiered Pricing Component established in accordance

with: (i) the Secretary's ratesetting policy for Irrigation Water adopted in 1988 and the Secretary's then-existing ratesetting policy for M&I water. Such ratesetting policies shall be amended, modified, or superseded only through a public notice and comment procedure; (ii) applicable Reclamation law and associated rules and regulations, or policies; and (iii) other applicable provisions of this Contract. Payments shall be made by cash transaction, wire, or any other mechanism as may be agreed to in writing by the Contractor and the Contracting Officer. The Rates, Charges, and Tiered Pricing Components applicable to the Contractor upon execution of this Contract are set forth in Exhibit "B", as may be revised annually.

(b) The Contracting Officer shall notify the Contractor of the Rates, Charges, and Tiered Pricing Components as follows:

(1) Prior to July 1 of each Calendar Year, the Contracting Officer shall provide the Contractor an estimate of the Charges for Project Water that will be applied to the period October 1, of the current Calendar Year, through September 30, of the following Calendar Year, and the basis for such estimate. The Contractor shall be allowed not less than two (2) months to review and comment on such estimates. On or before September 15 of each Calendar Year, the Contracting Officer shall notify the Contractor in writing of the Charges to be in effect during the period October 1 of the current Calendar Year, through September 30, of the following Calendar Year, and such notification shall revise Exhibit "B."

(2) Prior to October 1 of each Calendar Year, the Contracting Officer shall make available to the Contractor an estimate of the Rates and Tiered Pricing Components for Project Water for the following Year and the computations and cost allocations upon which those Rates are based. The

Contractor shall be allowed not less than two (2) months to review and comment on such computations and cost allocations. By December 31 of each Calendar Year, the Contracting Officer shall provide the Contractor with the final Rates and Tiered Pricing Components to be in effect for the upcoming Year, and such notification shall revise Exhibit "B."

(c) Before March 1 and again before July 1 of each Year the Contractor shall pay to the United States, at the Rates and Charges provided in subdivision (a) of this Article, for one-half (1/2) the average annual quantity of Project Water of 24,000 acre-feet regardless of the quantity of Irrigation Water and Other Water actually made available to the Contractor during the Year.

(d) Omitted.

(e) Omitted.

(f) Payments to be made by the Contractor to the United States under this Contract may be paid from any revenues available to the Contractor.

(g) All revenues received by the United States from the Contractor relating to the delivery of Project Water or the delivery of non-project water through Project facilities shall be allocated and applied in accordance with Federal Reclamation law and the associated rules or regulations, and the then current Project ratesetting policies for Irrigation Water or Other Water using the M&I ratesetting policy.

(h) The Contracting Officer shall keep its accounts pertaining to the administration of the financial terms and conditions of its long-term contracts, in accordance with applicable Federal standards, so as to reflect the application of Project costs and revenues. The Contracting Officer shall, each Year upon

request of the Contractor, provide to the Contractor a detailed accounting of all Project and Contractor expense allocations, the disposition of all Project and Contractor revenues, and a summary of all water delivery information. The Contracting Officer and the Contractor shall enter into good faith negotiations to resolve any discrepancies or disputes relating to accountings, reports, or information.

(i) The parties acknowledge and agree that the efficient administration of this Contract is their mutual goal. Recognizing that experience has demonstrated that mechanisms, policies, and procedures used for establishing Rates, Charges, and Tiered Pricing Components, and/or for making and allocating payments, other than those set forth in this Article may be in the mutual best interest of the parties, it is expressly agreed that the parties may enter into agreements to modify the mechanisms, policies, and procedures for any of those purposes while this Contract is in effect without amending this Contract.

(j) (1) The Contractor shall make payment to the United States equal to the applicable Tiered Pricing Component for all Water Delivered in excess of eighty (80%) percent of the Contract Total before July 1 of each Year. The Tiered Pricing Component for the amount of Water Delivered in excess of eighty (80%) percent of the Contract Total, but less than or equal to ninety (90%) percent of the Contract Total, shall equal the one-half of the difference between the Rate established under subdivision (a) of this Article and the Irrigation Full Cost Water Rate or M&I Full Cost Water Rate, whichever is applicable. The Tiered Pricing Component for the amount of Water Delivered which exceeds ninety (90%) percent of the Contract Total shall equal the difference between (i) the Rate established under subdivision (a) of this Article and (ii) the Irrigation Full Cost Water Rate or M&I Full Cost Water Rate, whichever is applicable.

(2) Subject to the Contracting Officer's written approval, the Contractor may request and receive an exemption from such Tiered Pricing Components for Project Water delivered to produce a crop which the Contracting Officer determines will provide significant and quantifiable habitat values for waterfowl in fields where the water is used and the crops are produced; Provided, That the exemption from the Tiered Pricing Components for Irrigation Water shall apply only if such habitat values can be assured consistent with the purposes of CVPIA through binding agreements executed with or approved by the Contracting Officer prior to use of such water.

(3) For purposes of determining the applicability of the Tiered Pricing Components pursuant to this Article, Water Delivered shall include Project Water that the Contractor transfers to others but shall not include Project Water transferred and delivered to the Contractor.

(k) For the term of this Contract, Rates under the respective ratesetting policies will be established to recover only reimbursable "operation and maintenance" (including any deficits) and capital costs of the Project, as those terms are used in the then-current Project ratesetting policies, and interest, where appropriate, except in instances where a minimum Rate is applicable in accordance with the relevant Project ratesetting policy. Changes of significance in practices which implement the Contracting Officer's ratesetting policies will not be implemented until the Contracting Officer has provided the Contractor an opportunity to discuss the nature, need, and impact of the proposed change.

(l) Except as provided in subsections 3405(a)(1)(B) and 3405(f) of the CVPIA, the Rates for Project Water transferred by the Contractor shall be the Contractor's Rates adjusted upward or downward to reflect the changed costs of delivery (if any) of the transferred Project Water to the transferee's point of delivery in accordance with the then applicable CVP Ratesetting Policy. If the

Contractor is receiving lower Rates and Charges because of inability to pay and is transferring Project Water to another entity whose Rates and Charges are not adjusted due to inability to pay, the

Rates and Charges for transferred Project Water shall be the Contractor's Rates and Charges unadjusted for ability to pay.

(m) Pursuant to the Act of October 27, 1986 (100 Stat. 3050), the Contracting Officer is authorized to adjust determinations of ability to pay every five (5) years.

NON-INTEREST BEARING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE DEFICITS

8. The Contractor and the Contracting Officer concur that, as of the effective date of this Contract, the Contractor has no non-interest bearing operation and maintenance deficits and shall have no further liability therefor.

SALES, TRANSFERS, OR EXCHANGES OF WATER

9. (a) The right to receive Project Water provided for in this Contract may be sold, transferred, or exchanged to others for reasonable and beneficial uses within the State of California if such sale, transfer, or exchange is authorized by applicable Federal and State laws, and applicable guidelines or regulations then in effect. No sale, transfer, or exchange of Project Water under this Contract may take place without the prior written approval of the Contracting Officer, except as provided for in subdivision (b) of this Article, and no such sales, transfers, or exchanges shall be approved absent compliance with appropriate environmental documentation including but not limited to the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. Such environmental documentation should include, as appropriate, an

analysis of groundwater impacts and economic and social effects, including environmental justice, of the proposed water transfers on both the transferor and transferee.

(b) Omitted.

(c) Omitted.

APPLICATION OF PAYMENTS AND ADJUSTMENTS

10. (a) The amount of any overpayment by the Contractor of the Contractor's O&M, Capital, and deficit (if any) obligations for the Year shall be applied first to any current liabilities of the Contractor arising out of this Contract then due and payable. Overpayments of more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) shall be refunded at the Contractor's request. In lieu of a refund, any amount of such overpayment at the option of the Contractor, may be credited against amounts to become due to the United States by the Contractor. With respect to overpayment, such refund or adjustment shall constitute the sole remedy of the Contractor or anyone having or claiming to have the right to the use of any of the Project Water supply provided for herein. All credits and refunds of overpayments shall be made within thirty (30) days of the Contracting Officer obtaining direction as to how to credit or refund such overpayment in response to the notice to the Contractor that it has finalized the accounts for the Year in which the overpayment was made.

(b) All advances for miscellaneous costs incurred for work requested by the Contractor pursuant to Article 25 of this Contract shall be adjusted to reflect the actual costs when the work has been completed. If the advances exceed the actual costs incurred, the difference will be refunded to the Contractor. If the actual costs exceed the Contractor's advances, the Contractor will be billed for the

additional costs pursuant to Article 25 of this Contract.

TEMPORARY REDUCTIONS--RETURN FLOWS

11. (a) Subject to: (i) the authorized purposes and priorities of the Project and the requirements of Federal law and (ii) the obligations of the United States under existing contracts, or renewals thereof, providing for water deliveries from the Project, the Contracting Officer shall make all reasonable efforts to optimize Project Water deliveries to the Contractor as provided in this Contract.

(b) The Contracting Officer may temporarily discontinue or reduce the quantity of Water Delivered to the Contractor as herein provided for the purposes of investigation, inspection, maintenance, repair, or replacement of any of the Project facilities or any part thereof necessary for the delivery of Project Water to the Contractor, but so far as feasible the Contracting Officer will give the Contractor due notice in advance of such temporary discontinuance or reduction, except in case of emergency, in which case no notice need be given; Provided, That the United States shall use its best efforts to avoid any discontinuance or reduction in such service. Upon resumption of service after such reduction or discontinuance, and if requested by the Contractor, the United States will, if possible, deliver the quantity of Project Water which would have been delivered hereunder in the absence of such discontinuance or reduction.

(c) The United States reserves the right to all seepage and return flow water derived from Water Delivered to the Contractor hereunder which escapes or is discharged beyond the Contractor's Service Area; Provided, That this shall not be construed as claiming for the United States any right as seepage or return flow being put to reasonable and beneficial use pursuant to this Contract within the

Contractor's Service Area by the Contractor or those claiming by, through, or under the Contractor.

CONSTRAINTS ON THE AVAILABILITY OF WATER

12. (a) Omitted.

(b) If there is a reduction in total water supply because of errors in physical operations of the Project, drought, other physical causes beyond the control of the Contracting Officer or actions taken by the Contracting Officer to meet legal obligations then, except as provided in subdivision (a) of Article 18 of this Contract, no liability shall accrue against the United States or any of its officers, agents, or employees for any damage, direct or indirect, arising therefrom.

UNAVOIDABLE GROUNDWATER PERCOLATION

13. To the extent applicable, the Contractor shall not be deemed to have delivered Irrigation Water to Excess Lands or Ineligible Lands within the meaning of this Contract if such lands are irrigated with groundwater that reaches the underground strata as an unavoidable result of the delivery of Irrigation Water by the Contractor to Eligible Lands.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

14. (a) The parties agree that the delivery of Irrigation Water or use of Federal facilities pursuant to this Contract is subject to Federal Reclamation law, including but not limited to, the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C.390aa et seq.), as amended and supplemented, and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior under Federal Reclamation law.

(b) The terms of this Contract are subject to modification to comply with any settlement entered into by the Contractor in NRDC v. Patterson No. CIVS 88-1658-LKK-EM, or, should this Contract become subject to the subject matter jurisdiction of the court in NRDC v. Patterson, to comply

with the terms of any final order or judgment therein. Except as provided in this Contract, this Contract does not add to the obligations of the parties, if any, relating to the San Joaquin River. This Contract does not limit or detract from the obligations of the parties, if any, relating to the San Joaquin River.

WATER AND AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

15. The Contractor, in carrying out this Contract, shall comply with all applicable water and air pollution laws and regulations of the United States and the State of California, and shall obtain all required permits or licenses from the appropriate Federal, State, or local authorities.

QUALITY OF WATER

16. (a) Project facilities used to deliver Project Water to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract shall be operated and maintained to enable the United States to deliver Project Water to the Contractor in accordance with the water quality standards specified in subsection 2(b) of the Act of August 26, 1937 (50 Stat. 865), as added by Section 101 of the Act of October 27, 1986 (100 Stat. 3050) or other existing Federal laws. The United States is under no obligation to construct or furnish water treatment facilities to maintain or to improve the quality of Water Delivered to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract. The United States does not warrant the quality of Water Delivered to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract.

(b) The Operation and Maintenance of Project facilities shall be performed in such manner as is practicable to maintain the quality of raw water made available through such facilities at the highest level reasonably attainable as determined by the Contracting Officer. The Contractor shall be responsible for compliance with all State and Federal water quality standards applicable to surface and

subsurface agricultural drainage discharges generated through the use of Federal or Contractor facilities or Project Water provided by the Contractor within the Contractor's Service Area.

WATER ACQUIRED BY THE CONTRACTOR
OTHER THAN FROM THE UNITED STATES

17. (a) Water or water rights now owned or hereafter acquired by the Contractor other than from the United States and Irrigation Water furnished pursuant to the terms of this Contract may be simultaneously transported through the same distribution facilities of the Contractor subject to the following: (i) if the facilities utilized for commingling Irrigation Water and non-project water were constructed without funds made available pursuant to Federal Reclamation law, the provisions of Federal Reclamation law will be applicable only to the Landholders of lands which receive Irrigation Water; (ii) the eligibility of land to receive Irrigation Water must be established through the certification requirements as specified in the Acreage Limitation Rules and Regulations (43 CFR Part 426); (iii) the water requirements of Eligible Lands within the Contractor's Service Area can be established and the quantity of Irrigation Water to be utilized is less than or equal to the quantity necessary to irrigate such Eligible Lands. The Contractor and the Contracting Officer acknowledge that the Contractor's distribution system that was constructed with Federal financing was, prior to effective date of this Contract, repaid in full and title to the facilities transferred to the Contractor. As such, when such facilities are utilized for commingling Irrigation Water and non-project water, the provisions of Federal Reclamation law will be applicable only to the landholders of lands which receive Irrigation Water.

(b) Water or water rights now owned or hereafter acquired by the Contractor, other than from the United States or adverse to the Project or its contractors (i.e., non-project water), may be stored, conveyed and/or diverted through Project facilities, subject to the completion of appropriate environmental documentation, with the approval of the Contracting Officer and the execution of any contract determined by the Contracting Officer to be necessary, consistent with the following provisions:

(1) The Contractor may introduce non-project water into Project facilities and deliver said water to lands within the Contractor's Service Area, including Ineligible Lands, subject to payment to the United States and/or to any applicable Operating Non-Federal Entity of an appropriate rate as determined by the CVP Ratesetting Policy and the RRA, each as amended, modified or superseded from time to time. In addition, if electrical power is required to pump non-project water through the facilities, the Contractor shall be responsible for obtaining the necessary power and paying the necessary charges therefor.

(2) Delivery of such non-project water in and through Project facilities shall only be allowed to the extent such deliveries do not: (i) interfere with other Project purposes as determined by the Contracting Officer; (ii) reduce the quantity or quality of water available to other Project water service contractors; (iii) interfere with the delivery of contractual water entitlements to any other Project water service contractors; or (iv) interfere with the physical maintenance of the Project facilities.

(3) Neither the United States nor the Operating Non-Federal Entity shall be responsible for control, care or distribution of the non-project water before it is introduced into or after it is delivered from the Project facilities. The Contractor hereby releases and agrees to defend and indemnify the

United States and the Operating Non-Federal Entity, and their respective officers,

agents, and employees, from any claim for damage to persons or property, direct or indirect, resulting from Contractor's diversion or extraction of non-project water from any source.

(4) Diversion of such non-project water into Project facilities shall be consistent with all applicable laws, and if involving groundwater, consistent with any groundwater management plan for the area from which it was extracted.

(5) After Project purposes are met, as determined by the Contracting Officer, the United States and the Contractor shall share priority to utilize the remaining capacity of the facilities declared to be available by the Contracting Officer for conveyance and transportation of non-project water prior to any such remaining capacity being made available to non-Project contractors.

OPINIONS AND DETERMINATIONS

18. (a) Where the terms of this Contract provide for actions to be based upon the opinion or determination of either party to this Contract, said terms shall not be construed as permitting such action to be predicated upon arbitrary, capricious, or unreasonable opinions or determinations. Both parties, notwithstanding any other provisions of this Contract, expressly reserve the right to seek relief from and appropriate adjustment for any such arbitrary, capricious, or unreasonable opinion or determination. Each opinion or determination by either party shall be provided in a timely manner. Nothing in subdivision (a) of Article 18 of this Contract is intended to or shall affect or alter the standard of judicial review applicable under federal law to any opinion or determination implementing a specific provision of federal law embodied

in statute or regulation.

(b) The Contracting Officer shall have the right to make determinations necessary to administer this Contract that are consistent with the provisions of this Contract, the laws of the United States and of the State of California, and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior. Such determinations shall be made in consultation with the Contractor to the extent reasonably practicable.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

19. (a) In order to further their mutual goals and objectives, the Contracting Officer and the Contractor shall communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with each other, and with other affected Project Contractors, in order to improve the operation and management of the Project. The communication, coordination, and cooperation regarding operations and management shall include, but not be limited to, any action which will or may materially affect the quantity or quality of Project Water supply, the allocation of Project Water supply, and Project financial matters including, but not limited to, budget issues. The communication, coordination, and cooperation provided for hereunder shall extend to all provisions of this Contract. Each party shall retain exclusive decision making authority for all actions, opinion, and determinations to be made by the respective party.

(b) Within one-hundred twenty (120) days following the effective date of this Contract, the Contractor, other affected Project Contractors, and the Contracting Officer shall arrange to meet with interested Project Contractors to develop a mutually agreeable, written Project-wide process, which may be amended as necessary separate and apart from this Contract. The goal of this process shall be to provide,

to the extent practicable, the means of mutual communication and

interaction regarding significant decisions concerning Project operation and management on a
real-time basis.

(c) Omitted.

CHARGES FOR DELINQUENT PAYMENTS

20. (a) The Contractor shall be subject to interest, administrative and penalty charges on delinquent installments or payments. When a payment is not received by the due date, the Contractor shall pay an interest charge for each day the payment is delinquent beyond the due date. When a payment becomes sixty (60) days delinquent, the Contractor shall pay an administrative charge to cover additional costs of billing and processing the delinquent payment. When a payment is delinquent ninety (90) days or more, the Contractor shall pay an additional penalty charge of six (6%) percent per year for each day the payment is delinquent beyond the due date. Further, the Contractor shall pay any fees incurred for debt collection services associated with a delinquent payment.

(b) The interest charge rate shall be the greater of the rate prescribed quarterly in the Federal Register by the Department of the Treasury for application to overdue payments, or the interest rate of one-half of one (0.5%) percent per month prescribed by Section 6 of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (Public Law 76-260). The interest charge rate shall be determined as of the due date and remain fixed for the duration of the delinquent period.

(c) When a partial payment on a delinquent account is received, the amount received shall be applied, first to the penalty, second to the administrative charges, third to the accrued interest, and finally to the overdue payment.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

21. During the performance of this Contract, the Contractor agrees as follows:

(a) The Contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to,

the following: Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination, rates of payment or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Contracting Officer setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

(b) The Contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

(c) The Contractor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the Contracting Officer, advising the said labor union or workers' representative of the Contractor's commitments under Section 202 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

(d) The Contractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.

(e) The Contractor will furnish all information and reports required by said amended Executive Order and by the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to its books, records, and accounts by the Contracting Officer and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.

(f) In the event of the Contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this Contract or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, this Contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended, in whole or in part, and the Contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in said amended Executive Order, and such other sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in said Executive Order, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.

(g) The Contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs (a) through (g) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by the rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to Section 204 of said amended Executive Order, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The Contractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as may be directed by the Secretary of Labor as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance: Provided, however, That in the event the Contractor

becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction, the Contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

GENERAL OBLIGATION--BENEFITS CONDITIONED UPON PAYMENT

22. (a) The obligation of the Contractor to pay the United States as provided in this Contract is a general obligation of the Contractor notwithstanding the manner in which the obligation may be distributed among the Contractor's water users and notwithstanding the default of individual water users in their obligations to the Contractor.

(b) The payment of charges becoming due hereunder is a condition precedent to receiving benefits under this Contract. The United States shall not make water available to the Contractor through Project facilities during any period in which the Contractor may be in arrears in the advance payment of water rates due the United States. The Contractor shall not furnish water made available pursuant to this Contract for lands or parties which are in arrears in the advance payment of water rates levied or established by the Contractor.

(c) With respect to subdivision (b) of this Article, the Contractor shall have no obligation to require advance payment for water rates which it levies.

COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS AND REGULATIONS

23. (a) The Contractor shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1975 (P.L. 93-112, as amended), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101, et seq.) and any other applicable civil rights laws, as well as with their respective implementing regulations and guidelines imposed by the U.S. Department of the Interior and/or Bureau of Reclamation.

(b) These statutes require that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, handicap, or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation. By executing this Contract, the Contractor agrees to immediately take any measures necessary to implement this obligation, including permitting officials of the United States to inspect premises, programs, and documents.

(c) The Contractor makes this agreement in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts, property discounts, or other Federal financial

assistance extended after the date hereof to the Contractor by the Bureau of Reclamation, including installment payments after such date on account of arrangements for Federal financial assistance which were approved before such date. The Contractor recognizes and agrees that such Federal assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in this Article, and that the United States reserves the right to seek judicial enforcement thereof.

PRIVACY ACT COMPLIANCE

24. (a) The Contractor shall comply with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) (the Act) and the Department of the Interior rules and regulations under the Act (43 CFR 2.45 et seq.) in maintaining Landholder acreage certification and reporting records, required to be submitted to the Contractor for compliance with Sections 206 and 228 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 1266), and pursuant to 43 CFR 426.18.

(b) With respect to the application and administration of the criminal penalty provisions of the Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)), the Contractor and the Contractor's employees responsible for maintaining the certification and reporting records referenced in (a) above are considered to be employees of the Department of the Interior. See 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

(c) The Contracting Officer or a designated representative shall provide the Contractor with current copies of the Interior Department Privacy Act regulations and the Bureau of Reclamation Federal Register Privacy Act System of Records Notice (Acreage Limitation--Interior, Reclamation-31) which govern the maintenance, safeguarding, and disclosure of information contained in the Landholder's certification and reporting records.

(d) The Contracting Officer shall designate a full-time employee of the Bureau of Reclamation to be the System Manager who shall be responsible for making decisions on denials pursuant to 43 CFR 2.61 and 2.64 amendment requests pursuant to 43 CFR 2.72. The Contractor is authorized to grant requests by individuals for access to their own records.

(e) The Contractor shall forward promptly to the System Manager each proposed denial of access under 43 CFR 2.64; and each request for amendment of records filed under 43 CFR 2.71; notify the requester accordingly of such referral; and provide the System Manager with information and records necessary to prepare an appropriate response to the requester. These requirements do not apply to individuals seeking access to their own certification and reporting forms filed with the Contractor pursuant to 43 CFR 426.18, unless the requester elects to cite the Privacy Act as a basis for the request.

CONTRACTOR TO PAY CERTAIN MISCELLANEOUS COSTS

25. In addition to all other payments to be made by the Contractor pursuant to this Contract, the Contractor shall pay to the United States, within sixty (60) days after receipt of a bill and detailed statement submitted by the Contracting Officer to the Contractor for such specific items of direct cost incurred by the United States for work requested by the Contractor associated with this Contract plus indirect costs in accordance with applicable Bureau of Reclamation policies and procedures. All such amounts referred to in this Article shall not exceed the amount agreed to in writing in advance by the Contractor. This Article shall not apply to costs for routine contract administration.

WATER CONSERVATION

26. (a) Prior to the delivery of water provided from or conveyed through Federally constructed or Federally financed facilities pursuant to this Contract, the Contractor shall be implementing an effective water conservation and efficiency program based on the Contractor's water conservation plan that has been determined by the Contracting Officer to meet the conservation and efficiency criteria for evaluating water conservation plans established under Federal law. The water conservation and efficiency program shall contain definite water conservation objectives, appropriate economically feasible water conservation measures, and time schedules for meeting those objectives. Continued Project Water delivery pursuant to this Contract shall be contingent upon the Contractor's continued implementation of such water conservation program. In the event the Contractor's water conservation plan or any revised water conservation plan completed pursuant to subdivision (d) of Article 26 of this Contract have not yet been determined by the Contracting Officer to meet such criteria, due to circumstances which the Contracting Officer determines are beyond the control of the Contractor, water deliveries shall be made under this

Contract so long as the Contractor diligently works with the Contracting Officer to obtain such determination at the earliest practicable date, and thereafter the Contractor immediately begins implementing its water conservation and efficiency program in accordance with the time schedules therein.

(b) Omitted.

(c) The Contractor shall submit to the Contracting Officer a report on the status of its implementation of the water conservation plan on the reporting dates specified in the then existing conservation and efficiency criteria established under Federal law.

(d) At five (5) -year intervals, the Contractor shall revise its water conservation plan to reflect the then current conservation and efficiency criteria for evaluating water conservation plans established under Federal law and submit such revised water management plan to the Contracting Officer for review and evaluation. The Contracting Officer will then determine if the water conservation plan meets Reclamation's then current conservation and efficiency criteria for evaluating water conservation plans established under Federal law.

(e) If the Contractor is engaged in direct groundwater recharge, such activity shall be described in the Contractor's water conservation plan.

EXISTING OR ACQUIRED WATER OR WATER RIGHTS

27. Except as specifically provided in Article 17 of this Contract, the provisions of this Contract shall not be applicable to or affect non-project water or water rights now owned or hereafter acquired by the Contractor or any user of such water within the Contractor's Service Area. Any such water shall not be considered Project Water under this Contract. In addition, this Contract shall not be construed as limiting or

curtailing any rights which the Contractor or any water user within the Contractor's Service Area acquires or has available under any other contract pursuant to Federal Reclamation law.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BY NON-FEDERAL ENTITY

28. Omitted.

CONTINGENT ON APPROPRIATION OR ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS

29. The expenditure or advance of any money or the performance of any obligation of the United States under this Contract shall be contingent upon appropriation or allotment of funds. Absence of appropriation or allotment of funds shall not relieve the Contractor from any obligations under this Contract. No liability shall accrue to the United States in case funds are not appropriated or allotted.

BOOKS, RECORDS, AND REPORTS

30. (a) The Contractor shall establish and maintain accounts and other books and records pertaining to administration of the terms and conditions of this Contract, including: the Contractor's financial transactions, water supply data, and Project land and right-of-way agreements; the water users' land-use (crop census), land ownership, land-leasing and water use data; and other matters that the Contracting Officer may require. Reports thereon shall be furnished to the Contracting Officer in such form and on such date or dates as the Contracting Officer may require. Subject to applicable Federal laws and regulations, each party to this Contract shall have the right during office hours to examine and make copies of the other party's books and records relating to matters covered by this Contract.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (a) of this Article, no books, records, or other information shall be requested from the Contractor by the Contracting Officer unless such books, records, or information are reasonably related to the administration or performance of this Contract. Any such request shall allow the Contractor a reasonable period of time within which to provide the requested books, records, or information.

(c) Omitted.

ASSIGNMENT LIMITED--SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OBLIGATED

31. (a) The provisions of this Contract shall apply to and bind the successors and assigns of the parties hereto, but no assignment or transfer of this Contract or any right or interest therein shall be valid until approved in writing by the Contracting Officer.

(b) The assignment of any right or interest in this Contract by either party shall not interfere with the rights or obligations of the other party to this Contract absent the written concurrence of said other party.

(c) The Contracting Officer shall not unreasonably condition or withhold approval of any proposed assignment.

SEVERABILITY

32. In the event that a person or entity who is neither (i) a party to a Project contract, nor (ii) a person or entity that receives Project Water from a party to a Project contract, nor (iii) an association or other form of organization whose primary function is to represent parties to Project contracts, brings an action in a court of competent jurisdiction challenging the legality or enforceability of a provision included in this Contract and said person, entity, association, or organization obtains a final court decision holding that such provision is legally invalid or unenforceable and the Contractor has not intervened in that lawsuit in support of the plaintiff(s), the parties to this Contract shall use their best efforts to (i) within thirty (30) days of the date of such final court decision identify by mutual agreement the provisions in this Contract which must be revised and (ii) within three (3) months thereafter promptly agree on the appropriate revision(s). The time periods specified above may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties. Pending the completion of the actions designated above, to the extent it can do so without violating any applicable provisions of law, the United States shall continue to make the quantities of Project Water specified in this

Contract available to the Contractor pursuant to the provisions of this Contract which were not found to be legally invalid or unenforceable in the final court decision.

RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

33. Should any dispute arise concerning any provisions of this Contract, or the parties' rights and obligations thereunder, the parties shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve the dispute. Prior to the Contractor commencing any legal action, or the Contracting Officer referring any matter to Department of Justice, the party shall provide to the other party thirty (30) days' written notice of the intent to take such action; Provided, That such notice shall not be required where a delay in commencing an action would prejudice the interests of the party that intends to file suit. During the thirty (30) -day notice period, the Contractor and the Contracting Officer shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve the dispute. Except as specifically provided, nothing herein is intended to waive or abridge any right or remedy that the Contractor or the United States may have.

OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT

34. No Member of or Delegate to Congress, Resident Commissioner, or official of the Contractor shall benefit from this Contract other than as a water user or landowner in the same manner as other water users or landowners.

CHANGES IN CONTRACTOR'S SERVICE AREA

35. (a) While this Contract is in effect, no change may be made in the Contractor's Service Area or boundaries, by inclusion or exclusion of lands, dissolution, consolidation, merger, or otherwise, except upon the Contracting Officer's written consent.

(b) Within thirty (30) days of receipt of a request for such a change, the Contracting Officer will notify the Contractor of any additional information required by the Contracting Officer for

processing said request, and both parties will meet to establish a mutually agreeable schedule for timely completion of the process. Such process will analyze whether the proposed change is likely to: (i) result in the use of Project Water contrary to the terms of this Contract; (ii) impair the ability of the Contractor to pay for Project Water furnished under this Contract or to pay for any Federally-constructed facilities for which the Contractor is responsible; and (iii) have an impact on any Project Water rights applications, permits, or licenses. In addition, the Contracting Officer shall comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Contractor will be responsible for all costs incurred by the Contracting Officer in this process, and such costs will be paid in accordance with Article 25 of this Contract.

FEDERAL LAWS

36. By entering into this Contract, the Contractor does not waive its rights to contest the validity or application in connection with the performance of the terms and conditions of this Contract of any Federal law or regulation; Provided, That the Contractor agrees to comply with the terms and conditions of this Contract unless and until relief from application of such Federal law or regulation to the implementing provision of the Contract is granted by a court of competent jurisdiction.

NOTICES

37. Any notice, demand, or request authorized or required by this Contract shall be deemed to have been given, on behalf of the Contractor, when mailed, postage prepaid, or delivered to the Area Manager, South-Central California Area Office, 1423 N Street, Fresno, California 92721, and on behalf of the United States, when mailed, postage prepaid, or delivered to the Board of Directors of the Chowchilla Water District, PO Box 905, Chowchilla, California 93610. The designation of the addressee or the address may be changed by notice given in the same manner as provided in this Article for other notices.

CONFIRMATION OF CONTRACT

875 38. The Contractor, after the execution of this Contract, shall promptly seek to secure a decree
876 of a court of competent jurisdiction of the State of California, confirming the execution of this Contract. The
877 Contractor shall furnish the United States a certified copy of the final decree, the validation proceedings, and
878 all pertinent supporting records of the court approving and confirming this Contract, and decreeing and
879 adjudging it to be lawful, valid, and binding on the Contractor.

880 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Contract as of the day and
881 year first above written.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By: /s/ Lester A. Snow
Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region
Bureau of Reclamation

(SEAL)

CHOWCHILLA WATER DISTRICT

By: /s/ Robert E. Capehart
President of the Board of Directors

Attest:

By: /s/ Douglas Welch
Secretary of the Board of Directors

(I:Buch.wpd)

Contract No. 14-06-200-3844A- LTR1

EXHIBIT A

[Map or Description of Service Area]

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EXHIBIT B
[Initial Rates and Charges]